

# **NEWS RELEASE**



For Immediate Release  
Contact: Michele Ackles  
739-9654  
December 19, 2007

## **DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION (DTI) "ANGELS" BRING HOLIDAY JOY TO LOCAL CHILDREN IN SALVATION ARMY'S ANGEL TREE PROGRAM**

Dover - DTI Secretary Tom Jarrett is proud to announce that DTI employees have once again exceeded their donation goals in the 2007 Angel Tree program, sponsored by the Salvation Army. This is the 9th consecutive year of DTI's participation in the yearly holiday toy drive and the Angel Tree has become an important part of DTI employees' holiday celebrations.

DTI's "angels" loaded up two full sleighs (trucks) and delivered 262 toys, valued at over \$4000.00 to the Salvation Army on December 18th. The gifts were graciously received by Captain Lavenbein of the Salvation Army and were unloaded with assistance of volunteers from Dover Air Force Base. Captain Lavenbein noted that DTI's gifts were the single largest donation received in the Kent County drive.

"I am amazed and humbled by our staff's generosity and not only during the holiday season but all year long," said Jarrett. "Our agency numbers just over 200 full time employees yet this year well over 250 brand new toys were placed under DTI's tree. We are pleased to be able to play a part in making holiday dreams come true for 400 families in Central Delaware."

DTI employees make it a practice not to leave any gift tags still hanging on the Angel Tree by the end of the campaign. Last year approximately 10 tags remained near the end of the campaign and one employee gathered all the tags and provided money for DTI staff members to purchase the remaining toys. In 2007, not only were 250 tags taken from the tree and returned with new toys, but many additional toys appeared under the tree. In addition, DTI employees also participate in a drive to provide gently used coats to be given to Salvation Army clients at the holiday dinner and toy distribution event.

DTI's Angel Tree effort is headed by Richelle Edwards, a DTI staff member in the Project Management area.

-end-